

MY CHILD IS 3-YEARS OLD CHILDCARE FUNDING EXPLAINED

We know that many parents look forward to the time when they can claim childcare funding for their 3 year old but funding doesn't necessarily start from the day your child turns 3. Here is a factsheet on how the childcare funding works and when you can expect to start receiving funding from the government.

From the term after your child turns three, funding is provided by the government for either 15 hours or 30 hours of care depending on your personal circumstances.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

All 3 to 4-year-olds in England can get 570 free hours per year through government funding. Some families may receive 1140 hours free childcare depending on your eligibility. You can check your eligibility here: <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>

DOES THIS MEAN MY CHILDCARE WILL BE FREE?

No. Local Authorities place limits on the maximum number of funded hours that can be claimed within a term, and as the length of each term varies throughout the year, this can affect the amount of funding available and, consequently, the number of hours for which fees are payable. The number of funded hours that we can claim for your child will depend on several factors, including your child's start date, attendance pattern, and the number of funded weeks and hours available within each funding term. You can learn more about the number of hours per day you will need to pay for on our website.

DO I NEED TO BOOK A MINIMUM NUMBER OF SESSIONS?

If you are claiming 570 hours, we have a minimum booking requirement of 2 full days. If you are claiming (30 hours) 1140 hours funding the minimum booking requirement is 3 full days.

If you would like to change your child's booking to receive your full funding allocation, please contact our bookings team at admin@wiseowlschildcare.co.uk. Please do this as soon as you can to check availability, ensuring you give 2 months' notice for any changes to your child's booking as per our T&Cs.

You may opt to use your funding at a different setting, if this is the case then full fees are payable or you can split the funding between the two childcare settings. Please indicate this on your funding form correctly if you will take this option. If you need any help further please contact our office team.

WHEN WILL MY FUNDING START?

This depends on when your child turns 3. The local authority has three funding cycles. If your child's birthday falls between:

- 1st of January – 31st of March your funding will begin in **May**
- 1st April -31st August, your funding will commence from **September**
- 1st September -31st December your funding will apply from **January**

APPLYING FOR 30-HOUR FUNDING

To find out if you are eligible and to apply for this funding, you must obtain a Reference Code directly from HMRC. This code needs to be reissued every 3 months and this is your responsibility. If you don't you will lose your 30 hour funding and 15 hour funding fees will be allocated to your bill.

Make sure the validity of your reference code starts before the funding period commences (outlined above) and it doesn't expire until after the funded period has started. If your funding code is not valid at the time the funding period starts, we will not be able to claim funding for you until the next funding term, and full fees will be payable.

I HAVE MY CODE, WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

Your nursery will send you a digital funding form to complete in advance of claiming funding. You will need to record your HMRC reference code on these forms. It is very important that these forms are completed and returned to the nursery by the due date or we will not be able to make a claim and full fees will be payable. You also need to show your key worker your child's ID, this can be a passport or full birth certificate, to verify their date of birth and full name.

ANY QUESTIONS? PLEASE EMAIL [INFO@WISEOWLSCHILDCARE.CO.UK](mailto:info@wiseowlschildcare.co.uk)

HOW MANY HOURS DO I NEED TO PAY FOR?

Local Authorities determine a maximum number of funded hours that can be claimed within each term and as this varies from term to term, it will have an impact on the number of hours you need pay. We will explain how this will apply to your booking during the booking process.

The table below shows the average number of hours you would pay each day depending on the number of days your child attends and your start date.

Hours funded per year	Number of days booked	Hours parent pays for per day
570	2	4 hours 55 minutes
	3	6 hours 45 minutes
	4	7 hours 39 minutes
	5	8 hours 12 minutes
1140	3	3 hours
	4	4 hours 50 minutes
	5	5 hours 54 minutes